



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

FEB 21 2014

ATTENTION: THIS LETTER UPDATES AND SUPERCEDES THE LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 7, 2014.

Dear Tribal Leader:

On February 7, 2014, we sent you a letter providing advanced notice of tentatively scheduled listening sessions and consultations on a number of important issues. Since that time, we have finalized the dates, times and locations for those listening sessions and consultations. This letter provides the most current meeting information that is available as of today. You may also look to supplemental information provided by NCAI. Please note that all of the Department's sessions are free and open to the public.

The sessions will be held the week of March 11, 2014 during the National Congress of American Indians' (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session at the Westin Washington Center, located at 1400 M Street NW, Washington, DC. By holding consultation and listening sessions during NCAI's session, I hope we can maximize your opportunities for participation.

The topics of the sessions are:

Consultation Session on Contract Support Costs – The demand for Contract Support Cost funding has grown because of the increased costs of administering programs, services, functions, or activities assumed by tribes and tribal organizations under both Titles I (self-determination) and IV (self-governance) of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act. Congress explicitly directed us to engage in consultation on this issue. We will discuss your views on the how the Department can address these demands in the future. This session will be conducted in conjunction with the Indian Health Service (IHS). Additional information about this consultation session was provided to you in a February 14 joint letter from the Department and IHS. The consultation session will take place on **Tuesday, March 11 from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Monticello Ballroom** at the Westin Washington Center, 1400 M Street NW.

Listening Session on the Labor Force Report – In 2012, the Department began a dialogue with you about the Labor Force Report. This listening session, in part, will focus on data collection methodologies the Department relies upon when developing the recurring American Indian Population and Labor Force Report. The session will take place on **Wednesday, March 12 from noon to 1:15 p.m. in the Berkeley Board Room** at the Westin Washington Center, 1400 M Street NW.

Listening Session on the ICWA – This session will begin a discussion with you on the possibility of amending BIA's nearly 30-year old regulations under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) that guide state court proceedings. The session will take place on **Tuesday, March 11 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Woodlawn Room** at the Westin Washington Center, 1400 M Street NW.

Consultation Session on 477 Data Collection Forms – We invite tribes to join the Department and other federal agencies in a discussion about 14 additional proposed changes to forms tribes use to report spending on eligible programs under P.L. 102-477. Eligible programs include TANF, Child Care, and Native Employment Works. This letter provides notice that the Department is engaging in consultation under the Department's policy on the proposed changes to reporting forms. The session will be held on **Thursday, March 13, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Ashland South Room** at the Westin Washington Center, 1400 M Street NW.

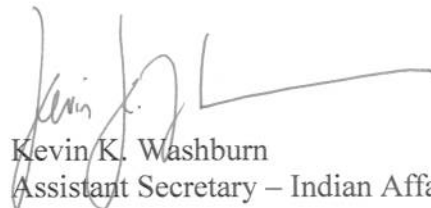
Listening Session on the Trust Commission Report – The Department is seeking your input on how it can improve its management and administration of trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives. My office seeks your reactions to and suggestions and recommendations regarding the Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform's findings and related issues. This session will take place on **Thursday, March 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the National Ballroom** at the Westin Washington Center, 1400 M Street NW.

Listening Session on Indian Education – The Secretaries of Education and the Interior have resolved to improve the state of Indian education and have created an inter-departmental study group to assist with that effort. This group has undertaken a national discussion with teachers, principals, administrators and other stakeholders in Indian education. Tribal leader input is essential to improving Indian education. This session will be an opportunity to further that discussion and will take place on **Thursday, March 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Ashlawn North Room** at the Westin Washington Center, 1400 M Street NW.

Finally, I want tribal leadership to know that I have an open door policy with you and enjoy meeting with you whenever possible. Many of you are already requesting individual meetings with me when you attend inter-tribal gatherings in the Washington D.C. area. I will do my best to honor your requests. To assist my office, please visit www.bia.gov/ContactUs in order to request a meeting. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 208-7163.

Thank you for your partnership in working together to improve the American Indian and Alaska Native communities that we serve.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs